SUMMARY TRANSLATION OF "RADIO" NO. 05 [MAY] FOR 1989

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[ NOTE: Square brackets are used by the translator to set off a comment, a reference, the expansion and translation of an abbreviation, or the equivalent of an expression or address in the other language. Their contents do not appear in the original. ]

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pp 2 - 8: "VCR'S: VISIBLE AND INVISIBLE PROBLEMS" ["VIDEOMAGNITOFONY: VIDIMYYE I NEVIDIMYYE PROBLEMY"].

[This lengthy article, under the rubric "Discussion Club 'On the Fourth Floor,'" concerns a discussion held at the "Radio" editorial offices on the problem of manufacturing VCR's in the USSR.]

pp 12 - 15: "TELEVISION VIA SATELLITE," by Aleksandr Mikhaylovich Varbanskiy, Member of the Editorial Board of "Radio" Magazine; Member of the Collegium of the Ministry of Communication of the USSR; First Deputy Chief of the Main Administration of Space and Radiocommunication of the Ministry of Communication of the USSR; Laureate of the State Prize of the USSR.

[First article in a series]

[Introduction]

Articles on the first direct broadcasting satellites [sputniki dlya neposredstvennogo televizionnogo veshchaniya - NTV] have increased interest in the possibility of receiving television programs via artificial earth satellites. Programs transmitted by DBS are being viewed in Western Europe, and ~~"dish antennas"~~ "antenna dishes" ["tarelki antenn"] have been installed on many buildings in Warsaw. The editors of "Radio" are receiving letters containing the same questions: "Is reception permitted here?" "How does one go about it technically?" Today, after the signing of the Final Document of

the Vienna Meeting, in which the states participating in the consultations on security and cooperation in Europe announced that they would make further efforts to facilitate a freer and broader flow of all types of information, using for this purpose all possibilities offered by modern means of communication, including cable and satellite communication, in principle our readers' questions "Is it permitted?" and "Is it prohibited" to receive signals from satellites are no longer relevant. However, readers' mail confirms that many are not acquainted with existing Soviet, foreign, or international satellite communication systems, with the legal bases for their operation, or with the rights and obligations of television viewers. Readers don't have maps showing satellite coverage areas. Amateurs, it is true, don't have the necessary technical information to build receiving equipment independently. Yet it is hardly realistic to count on our industry, following resolution of all legal aspects, to proceed rapidly to mass-produce the necessary equipment. The editors have therefore scheduled several articles on these matters, legal as well as technical ones.

[Article proper]

Satellite communication systems have a very important role in the transmission of television programs. Further development involves not only technical but legal aspects.

The use of satellites for television broadcasting in the USSR began with the 23 April 1965 launch of the first "Molniya-1" ["Lightning-1"] communication satellite in a highly elliptical orbit with a 12-hour rotation period synchronized with the Earth's rotation.

The technical solutions were so successful and the social significance for our country so great that already by 1967, for the 50th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution, the first distribution system in the world for satellite television broadcasting was established. The system consisted of twenty "Orbita" earth stations used to receive Central Television programs, which were then retransmitted to areas where over 20 million people lived.

The satellite communication system includes a transmitting (receiving-transmitting) station, called an "earth" station ["zemnaya" stantsiya] (as opposed to a "terrestrial" station ["nazemnaya" stantsiya] in ordinary communication links), a receiver-transmitter in the satellite — a "repeater," and a receiving (receiving-transmitting) earth station. The satellite transmitting antenna has broad directivity, which permits simultaneous reception by earth stations spread over a large area.

A repeater in a satellite may be thought of as a television transmitting station with a highly elevated antenna.

"Molniya" satellites permit communication coverage of almost the entire globe, but require complicated tracking earth-station antennas. This is acceptable for a small number of earth stations, but for significant numbers such a system becomes counterproductive.

For this reason, geostationary satellites have come into use, located in equatorial orbit and motionless, "hanging" as it were over the same point on Earth. Complicated tracking systems are not required for reception. From a geostationary satellite, Earth is visible within a solid angle in a circumference limited by plus or

minus 80° in latitude and 160° in longitude, centered on the equator, this representing the maximum service area of one satellite. Almost all the Earth's population lives within plus or minus 80°, explaining the fact that primary reliance is placed on geostationary satellites for communication.

The first Soviet geostationary satellite intended for television broadcasting, launched in 1975, was called "Raduga" ["Rainbow"]. Since 1980 a multi-beam "Gorizont" ["Horizon"] one has been used.

The rapid development of satellite communication systems has required the drafting and adoption of a number of international conventions, agreements, and norms [standards]. Technical matters relating to frequency use, orbital satellite positions, and avoidance of mutual interference between satellites and with terrestrial systems are resolved within the framework of the International Telecommunication Union (CCIR, IFRB). Legal matters are examined and regulated by broadcasting unions, regional unions, and individual UN decisions.

In accordance with the Radio Regulations, two types of satellite communications are provided for television broadcasting -- the fixed-satellite service (FSS) [fiksirovannaya sputnikovaya sluzhba - FSS] and the broadcasting-satellite service (BSS) [radioveshchatel'naya sputnikovaya sluzhba - RVSS]. [In Russian, the latter ITU space radiocommunication service is called, literally, the "radiobroadcasting-satellite service."] In this connection, it should be borne in mind that in accordance with internationally accepted terminology, the single term "radiobroadcasting" is used for [both] television and sound broadcasting.

The fixed-satellite service includes radiocommunication systems between earth stations situated at specified fixed points. For TV, this network is used for transmission of national programs in countries with large territories and also for international exchange of programs.

When the FSS is used only for the circular transmission [? - tsirkulyarnaya peredacha] of television programs, special satellites with more powerful repeaters are built, which simplifies and lessens the cost of receiving earth stations. Such FSS systems have received the name TVPT -- televizionnyy priyem tol'ko (in English transcription TVRO).

The first Soviet TVRO system -- the "Moskva" ["Moscow"] -- operates with the "Gorizont"-type satellite in the 4 GHz band. Its earth stations have relatively simple receiving systems and antennas with diameters of 2.5 meters. The "Moskva" system presently includes five satellites, which provide reception of Central TV programs in the entire territory of the country, taking into account time differences, and also reception in the territory of West European, North African, and bordering Asian coauntries. By increasing the diameter of earth-station antennas to seven meters, the reception area can be extended to 15° north latitude.

In the territory of the USSR, "Moskva" stations are widely used with low-powered television transmissions (1, 10, and 100 watts) to serve separate populated points. Abroad, such stations provide reception of Central TV in Soviet institutions for onward distribution to local home cable networks.

A new system of this type, the "Moskva-Global'naya" ["Moscow-Global"] system, is being put into service. With the help of two satellites, it makes possible reception of television programs in all countries of the world except the Northwestern part of North America.

Analogous TVRO systems are in operation in the 4 GHz band in the USA, Brazil, Indonesia, the PRC, and in a number of other countries. In West European countries, Canada, and Australia, the 11 GHz band is used. As a rule, receiving antennas for these systems have a diameter of 3 to 6 meters.

The progress made in satellite communication, in particular in the fixed-satellite service, means that international coordination is required. For this reason each satellite launch is preceded by publication of its parameters in a special IRRB bulletin, and by agreement (coordination) with interested countries. The results of coordination are reported to the IFRB and are published. The period of time between the first publication of a notice [zayavka] and registration is usually one and one-half to two years.

The accelerated development of the fixed-satellite service has made necessary the adoption of general legal documents regulating the launching of communication satellites. This is explained by the "overpopulation" of the equatorial orbit (at the present time it contains over a hundred different satellites operating in the 4 and 11 GHz bands). Therefore the International Telecommunication Union decided to work out plans for the allotment [raspredeleniye] of satellite positions and frequencies between countries.

In 1985, for the first time, technical matters as well as some legal matters were examined for the first time. In the process serious difficulties arose -- a number of equatorial countries expressed the view that the orbital segments situated above their territories could be used only with their agreement. Non-equatorial countries couldn't agree with this, regarding the entire orbit as the common property of mankind. Only in 1988 was it possible to agree on a plan for allotting orbital positions for the 4 and 11 GHz bands. The plan includes positions for satellites presently in operation; to provide for future development satellite orbital positions and frequencies for them with corresponding service areas are provided. For new satellites, only service areas within national borders of each country are specified.

Let's turn now to problems concerning the broadcasting-satellite service. In accordance with the Radio Regulations, this service includes signals transmitted or retransmitted by space stations and intended for direct by the general public [see No. 37 of the 1979 Radio Regulations]. For conducting NTV (in English transcription DBS) in the full sense of this concept, it is necessary that the signal radiated from the satellite correspond to the parameter of a signal for which television sets are designed -- wavelength, modulation scheme, signal level, etc. But in the metric [VHF] and decimetric [UHF] bands, in which the terrestrial television network operates, it is impossible, for technical reasons, to realize DBS. (For example, for Channel 3 it would be necessary to install an antenna with a diameter of 500 meters and to have a power source of 1 kW; for Channel 37 the antenna could be reduced to 60 meters but

the required transmitter power would have to be raised to 30 kW. Therefore the gigahertz band is used for DBS, and special, still rather expensive reception (including antenna) and conversion devices are added to television sets.

For this reason the term "direct reception" in the Radio Regulations is not taken in the literal sense of the term. The term is made more precise by the concept of "individual reception" (reception of the radiation of a space station in the BSS with the help of simple consumer installations, in particular installations with small antennas) and "community reception" (with the help of installations which in some cases may be complex and have relatively large antennas and intended for use by groups of the population in one place or with the help of a distribution system serving a limited area.) [See No. 37 of the Radio Regulations.]

Of course, such a distinction [presumably, between the fixed-satellite service and the broadcasting-satellite service] is somewhat arbitrary and in practical terms the two types differ only in the quality of the received signal (which depends on the antenna size) and partially on the area [type?] of use [oblast'yu ispol'zovaniya] defined by the user.

Special frequency bands are allocated [vydeleny] for the BSS with specified parameters for the radiated signal. There is an article in the Radio Regulations, in accordance with which in devising the characteristics of a space station in the BSS, all technical means available shall be used to reduce, to the maximum extent practicable, the radiation over the territory of other countries (unless an agreement has been previously reached with such countries). [See No. 2674 of the Radio Regulations.]

The specially-allocated band at 12 GHz is considered to be the most promising band for the BSS. A frequency allotment plan has been adopted for this band, according to which each country is provided the possibility of transmitting five TV programs within the limits of its national territory. International broadcasting is not provided for in these plans.

The plan provides 70 frequency channels for satellite communication systems (taking into account territorial separation between individual channels) and five satellite orbital positions.

Work on establishing BSS systems is being carried on in many countries including the USSR, where it has received the name STV-12 (sistema televizionnogo veshchaniya v diapazone 12 GGz)[1] [literally, "system of television broadcasting in the 12 GHz band"].

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[1][The following footnote is identified with an asterisk in the original article]

In many of its parameters, our "Ekran" ["Screen"] system, in operation since 1976 and using the decimetric [UHF] band (740 MHz), may be considered as belonging to the BSS. The area of operation of the "Ekran" system is limited to the central regions of the country (broadcasting areas "B" and "V") [these are the second and third letters of the Cyrillic alphabet, equivalent to "B" and "C" in the Latin alphabet] so as to avoid interfering with terrestrial TV stations in the territory of bordering states.

Japan has been conducting experimental transmissions in this band since 1986. The FRG launched a satellite (TVSAT) in 1987. True, its solar-battery panels didn't open and the experiment wasn't successful. However, the French satellite TDF has been operating successfully since late 1988. We should add that an Indian satellite, through which a school educational program is transmitted, is operating in the 2.6 GHz band, also allocated to the BSS.

As equipment is improved and as earth receiving-station equipment is simplified, the difference between the FSS and the BSS lessens. This is all the more true since in a number of instances these space services serve the same purposes. From a technical point of view the distinction is maintained only in the frequency bands used and in the signal level in the service area. However, the FSS and BSS each operates on its own legal basis.

In accordance with the Radio Regulations, when using the FSS, telecommunication administrations are obliged, for example, to take necessary measures to prohibit and prevent the unauthorized interception of radiocommunications and their further use. [See Nos. 1992, 1993, and 1994 of the Radio Regulations.] Based specifically on this provision, Central Television programs transmitted on the "Moskva" system may be used in other countries only after receiving permission from Gosteleradio of the USSR. On the other hand, we too use programs from foreign television centers, including programs transmitted via satellite, based on agreements with the corresponding broadcasting organizations.

Of course, practically speaking, hidden, unsanctioned reception of FSS signals is possible, but distribution of them can easily be detected and cut off.

Sometimes individual broadcasting organizations not only don't object but encourage reception of their television programs. Others, on the other hand, even use coded signals to block reception of their programs. Reception is possible only by using special decoding devides, the sale of which is controlled and kept account of, or rented out in order to receive payment for receiving rights.

Legal matters involved with the use of satellite communication systems are in a state of continuous study and development. This is explained by the fact that television broadcasting itself is undergoing dynamic development, and new forms, frequently crossing national borders, are making their appearance.

The above applies fully to direct television broadcasting.

The emergence of DBS required the resolution not only of technical but also of legal problems. The UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space has been involved with the latter for many years. The UNESCO Declaration of 1972 states that satellite broadcasting must respect the sovereignty and equality of all countries, preserve the rights of individuals, defend peace, distribute news, and develop education.

In the same year, our country submitted a proposal to the XXVII Session of the UN General Assembly "On Drafting an International Convention on the Principles Governing the Use by Governments of Satellites for DBS." However, this proposal was not accepted. Its opponents explained that in their view the Radio Regulations and technical standards, worked out within the framework of the International Telecommunication Union, were sufficient. Nonetheless, ten years later, the General Assembly adopted a resolution (true, not obligatory but recommendatory, in contrast to a convention [konventsiya] or agreement [dogovor]), in which it was proposed that international DBS service be established only after consultation with states on the basis of agreements [no osnove soglasheniya ili dogovorennosti].

At the present time, a draft "European Convention on Transborder Television" has been drawn up by a number of European countries. It contains, by the way, many provisions rejected by them in the 1972 draft resolution proposed by the USSR. There is also reference to the necessity of agreement or permission of the country in whose territory broadcasting is conducted, and a number of restrictions on program content. All of this testifies to the change in the international climate, which could not fail to be reflected in positions with respect to the realization of satellite communication systems for TV.

The Final Document of the Vienna Meeting of States Parties to the Consultations on Security and Cooperation in Europe opened up fundamentally [Printsipial'no] new horizons for coordinated activities in the field of further development of satellite communication systems on an international scale. The document is becoming the legal basis for progress in cooperation in television broadcasting as well. In a section devoted to the distribution of all forms of information, participants in the consultations accepted the obligation to facilitate a situation whereby the direct and normal reception of transmission by radio services operating in accordance with the broadcasting provisions of the International Telecommunication Union could take place in their states. They would also encourage cooperation and exchanges between establishments, organizations, and technical experts and work for harmonization of technical standards.

Of course, in this connection, we'll have to do a great deal of work relating the introduction of national and international standards, rules, and conventions, corresponding to the spirit and letter of the Final Document of the Vienna Meeting.

[Related material immediately following preceding article]

"OUR REFERENCE INFORMATION" [? — "NASHA SPRAVKA"]

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) [Mezhdunarodnyy soyuz elektrosvyazi (MSE)] [literally "international union (of) electrocommunication"] exists for the purpose of perfecting, and for the rational use of, all types of telecommunication. Countries are represented in the ITU by [their] telecommunication administrations. Its [the ITU's] decisions are not obligatory for member countries. But carrying them out is necessary for organizing communication within countries as well as between them. Non-observance, for example, of frequency allotment plans can lead to mutual interference and to disruption of communication.

The basic document regulating the use of radiocommunication (transmission or reception of text, images, sounds, or other intelligence by means of radio waves), is the International Telecommunication Convention (ratified by Decision [ukaz] of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR of 19 November 1985) and the Radio Regulations (whose application has been approved by decision [postanovleniye] of the Council of Ministers of the USSR).

At the ITU's initiative, World Administrative Radio Conferences (WARCs) [Vsemirnyye administrativnyye konferentsii po radio (VAKR)] or Regional Administrative Radio Conferences (RARCs) [Regional'no-administrativnyye konferentsii po radio (RAKR) are called to examine technical and administrative matters.

Current work is conducted within the framework of the International Radio Consultative Committee (CCIR) [Mezhdunarodnyy konsul'tativnyy komitet po radio (MKKR)] and the International Frequency Registration Board (IFRB) [Mezhdunarodnyy komitet po registratsii chastot (MKRCh)]. The CCIR deals with technical problems involving the standardization of radiocommunication systems and the development of recommendations facilitating the effective use of the frequency spectrum and the prevention of interference between radiocommunication services. The IFRB examines notified frequencies for the purpose of avoiding interference and registering these frequencies.

pp 21 — 22: "CONVERSATION WITH SHORTWAVERS," by B[oris Grigor'yevich] Stepanov, UW3AX. [Proper on-the-air conduct.]

pp 22 — 24: "ON PECULIARITIES OF CONDUCTING DX QSO'S," by A. Voloshin, UA4CC, Master of Sport of the USSR, Saratov. [On working DX stations, which may listen up or down for calls, may listen for stations with a specific number in their callsign, etc. Includes English phraseology.]

p 24: "BEST ["STRONGEST"] SPORTSMEN OF THE YEAR." [Based on 1988 results, as approved by the Bureau of the Presidium of the Federation of Radio Sport of the USSR. The ten best men and the ten best women are listed for speed radiotelegraphy (separately for hand-written and typewriter reception), radiomen mixed events, and sport radiodirectionfinding. A single list of judges is given in alphabetical order. No callsigns are included.]

pp 25 - 26: "EXTRACTING LESSONS" ["IZVLEKAYA UROKI"], by V[asiliy Mikhaylovich] Bondarenko, [UV3BW,] Chief, Central Radio Club of the USSR Named After E. T. Krenkel'.

[ Translator's remarks: This article may be an attempt by the Central Radio Club, and DOSAAF of which it is a component, to preserve and expand their role in managing the Soviet radio amateur movement. In addition to any rivalry that may exist between them and the Federation of Radio Sport, there have been indications that the Komsomol, the Communist Party's youth organization, seeks a greater role in managing the Soviet amateur radio movement, which could occur only at the (bureaucratic) expense of the Central Radio Club and DOSAAF. ]

The main event of 1988 for the Central Radio Club of the USSR Named After E. T. Krenkel' and for all the amateurs in our country was the All-Union Conference of Radio Amateurs[2]. During 1988, we reorganized the activities of the Central Radio Club; in particular we created a Radio Amateur Department [radiolyubitel'skiy otdel] to engage directly in the development of amateur radio and off-site [zaochnyy, i.e. over-the-air events, as opposed to events in which competitors are at one location] radiosport.

The conference demonstrated that many documents and instructions, particularly those concerning over-the-air operation, had become obsolete and did not meet international norms. As a result of their re-examination, as is known, limitations on QSO's with foreign shortwavers were lifted; permission was granted to use personal post office boxes to receive QSL cards, to give out post office box numbers and home addresses of radio amateurs [over the air], to receive any foreign diplomas [certificates] and to join foreign DX clubs. From now on, radioexpeditions to other countries may be organized and participation is authorized in any international off-site radiocommunication competitions.

Just listing the modified documents takes quite a bit of space: "Instruction on the Procedure for Exchanging QSL Cards" ["Instruktsiya o poryadke obmena kartochkami-kvitantsiyami"], "Code of the Soviet Radio Amateur" ["Kodeks sovetskogo radiolyubitelya"], "Rules on the Procedure for Radio-Net Operation by DOSAAF Organizations" ["Polozheniye o poryadke raboty lyubitel'skoy radioseti organizatsiy DOSAAF"], Rules on Volunteer Instructor-Monitors[?] of the FRS of the USSR" [Polozheniye ob obshchestvennykh instruktorakh-kontrolerakh FRS SSSR"], "Rules for the Collective Radio Station" ["Polozheniye o kollektivnoy radiostantsii"], "Rules on the Procedure for Applying for and Issuing Callsigns to Radioamateur Observers [SWL's]" ["Polozheniye o poryadke oformleniya i vydachi pozyvnykh radiolyubitelyam-nablyudatelyam"], "Rules for Requesting Callsigns for Temporary Portable Operation of Radio Stations" ["Pravila oformleniya pozyvnykh signalov pri vremennom perenose radiostantsiy"], and others.

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[2]Vsesoyuznaya konferentsiya radiolyubiteley; held near Moscow, 8 - 10 April 1986; see summary translation RADIO #02/1988 p g.

At the request of radio amateurs, the CRC USSR has begun to publish the bulletin "Information Materials for Radio Amateurs" [byulleten' "Informatsionnyye materialy dlya radiolyubiteley"] on a regular basis. We have also taken into account dissatisfaction on the part of shortwavers over the currently-in-force "Instruction on the Procedure for Registering and Operating Amateur Receiving-Transmitting Radio Stations" ["Instruktsiya o poryadki registratsii i ekspluatatsii lyubitel'skikh preyemno-peredayushchikh radiostantsiy"]. Work was completed recently on a new "Instruction," which will be put into force soon.

Rules for on-site competitions were changed last year.

The Central Committee of DOSAAF USSR and the Central Radio Club of the USSR devoted much attention during 1988 to the matter of equipment for radio amateurs and radiosportsmen. Reliance is being placed on direct contacts with enterprises not part of the DOSAAF system. As a result, 28 enterprises and cooperatives are already producing or planning to produce 68 models [? - naimenovaniya] of sport equipment, which is significantly greater than last year.

That's one aspect of the CRC's activity. There's another -- the purely sports aspect -- that occupies an important part of our work. Two new All-Union records were established at the 1988 Championship of the USSR in Speed Radiotelegraphy. Stanislav Zelenov from Vladimir broke the record for machine reception established in 1983 by Vyacheslav Rakintsev. Yelena Fomicheva established a new record in typewriter reception, but this was broken at the Armed Forces Championship in June 1988 by Irina Zhilina from Latvia.

Oleg Bezzubov from Penza established a record by copying by hand a radiogram consisting of numbers [tsifrovaya radiogramma] at 310 characters per minute!

Our sportsmen were also successful at international competitions. In Switzerland, our "fox-hunters" took the greatest number of medals. At the "For Friendship and Fraternity" competitions, our mixed teams and "hunters" won all the challenge prizes [perekhodyashchiye prizy].

Nonetheless, there is more than enough cause for serious alarm over the state of our radiosport.

...

All is not well with our shortwavers either. In 1988, 1665 on-the-air violations were registered, including use of excessive power by factors of ten, and on 160m by factors of a hundred.

Radio amateurs have always been known for their politeness. Unfortunately, it is not rare, now, to hear coarse and insulting language, both on 'phone and c.w.

Above all, it is necessary, relying upon democratic methods of work and upon glasnost', to resolve the matter of opening official [shtatnyye, i.e. staffed with permanent (DOSAAF) employees] republic, kray, and oblast' radio clubs, without which, as experience has shown, it's impossible to ensure mass participation in amateur radio and radiosport. In our view, official DOSAAF radio clubs must be accountable to [presumably meaning subordinate to] the Central Radio Club of the USSR Named After E. T. Krenkel.

Independent radio, computer, and interest-based clubs established on a self-supporting, self-financing, and pay-back basis [na osnove khozrascheta, samofinansirovaniya i samookupayemosti] could play an important role. It would be desirable for such clubs to become collective members of the CRC USSR. They and cooperatives could be included in DOSAAF exhibitions of the creations of radioamateur constructors.

We should support the suggestion by our Czechoslovak friends to hold annual exhibitions of radioamateur creations in the socialist countries, giving them the same status as the "For Friendship and Fraternity" competitions.

Many Soviet shortwavers and ultrashortwavers are still experiencing difficulties in installing amateur antennas on the roofs of residential and official buildings. DOSAAF committees, radio technical schools, combined technical schools, and federations of radio sport must resolve this long-standing problem with local government organs, as has been done in Moscow, Leningrad, and a number of other cities in the country.

Propaganda [Publicity] is needed about amateur radio. Neither the FRS USSR nor the CRC USSR has an information center. We think a videolaboratory should be established in the CRC. But this would require foreign exchange [invalyuta], and we've been unsuccessful in getting this from the Central Committee of DOSAAF USSR.

For perestroyka to work in amateur radio and radiosport, individual amateurs must overcome their attitude of dependency and do more then complain. They must be willing to help the limited number of DOSAAF staff employees.

On the other hand, one can't excuse the attitude of DOSAAF committee leaders who are unwilling to listen to the opinions of the amateur radio community.

Everyone — staff DOSAAF employees and individual amateurs — must understand that we are all pursuing the same goal and can achieve it only through joint effort.

pp 27 — 28: "MEET LYUDMILA ON THE 29TH," by G. Shchelchkov, [UA3GM,] Chairman, KDK [kontrol'no-distsiplinarnaya komissiya — Monitoring-Disciplinary Commission] of the Federation of Radio Sport of the USSR.

No. 2732 of the 1979 Radio Regulations (Article 32) provides that transmissions "... shall be made in plain language and shall be limited to messages of a technical nature relating to tests and to remarks of a personal character for which, by reason of their unimportance, recourse to the public telecommunications service is not justified."

How do things stand in our country?

The overwhelming majority of Soviet radio amateurs represent our Homeland on the world's airwaves in a worthy manner. However, DOSAAF monitoring centers [kontrol'nyye punkty] and volunteer monitors [obshchestvennyye kontrolery] of the Federation of Radio Sport of the USSR continue to register many violations on the shortwave and ultrashortwave bands. There are three types:

- low signal quality;
- Conversations not relating to amateur radio or radiosport;
- Background QRM in the 'phone tract.

While low signal quality is attributable to equipment in the hands of some beginners, conversations going beyond the permissible are engaged in by beginners and "venerable" amateurs alike.

What don't we talk about on the air!

One amateur in Novokuybyshevsk asks another whether he needs 2.6m alumin[i]um tubing. No, replies the other, he can get it at work and has supplied all his friends...

Another amateur from Novocherkassk has apparently volunteered to help the Ministry of Communication deliver urgent telegrams. He tells the other operator to "Meet Lyudmila on the 29th."

On the amateur bands results of football and hockey matches are discussed, crossword puzzles are solved. Amateur stations are often used instead of the city telephone. Aimless chatter on the overloaded bands disturbs operation by other stations and creates an unflattering opinion about the cultural level at which some Soviet radio amateurs conduct communications.

Many complaints from the State Telecommunication Inspectorate and from our foreign colleagues concern U-stations operating with poorly-adjusted equipment, with poor signals, or radiating side harmonics. A station in Odesskaya Oblast' was heard in Leningrad on 14 020 and 13 960 kHz simulteneously, and a station in Orenburg on 14 012 and 13 946 kHz.

The "harmless" violation of operating from a collective station with an individual callsign is flourishing in a number of oblasts.

This is a special subject, and we shall, as with the case of excessive power, devote a separate article to it.

All of these examples are taken from reports of oblast' monitoring-disciplinary commissions [KDK's]. Of course, we punish violators by various means: We take their callsigns away, we close down their stations temporarily, we call them in to the bureau of the FRS USSR. But, as we can see, repressive measures along don't suffice. The number of violations is going down very slowly. In 1985, all of the monitoring centers and volunteer monitors of the FRS USSR registered 17 797 violations, 2375 of them for impermissible conversations over the air; in 1988 the numbers were 17 567 and 4090.

I think that one reason for these high numbers is that local federations of radio sport have neglected educational work with beginning radioamateurs. Without acquainting them with the rules and documents, they let them operate independently. It's no coincidence that the greatest number of violations is attributable to 4th-category stations.

The central organs must share responsibility for weakness in training. The last "Instruction on the Procedure for Registering and Operating Amateur Receiving-Transmitting Stations" was published in 1200 copies. And this was for 52 thousand stations! As a result one copy was sent to each oblast' instead of providing one "Instruction" for each amateur station.

p 28: "PROBLEMS [INVOLVING] OBSERVERS [SWL'S]" ["PROBLEMY NABLYUDATELEY"], by G. Chlyants, UB5-068-3, [UY5XE,] Chairman, Committee of the FRS Committee of the USSR On Work With Observers.

Among Soviet radioamateurs are tens of thousands of observers [SWL's] and there are quite a few in other countries. As a rule, observers are those starting out in the fascinating world of short wave.

Almost anyone can become an observer, even the youngest radio amateur. At the present time, all age restrictions have been lifted for SWL operation. True, to get a personal observer callsign, one has to have one's own equipment.

Aside from beginners, those unable to open their own individual radio stations on account of the character of their work, living conditions, etc., often become observers.

For many years problems have been accumulating for Soviet observers, problems which the Committee on Work with Observers [komitet po rabote s nablyudatelyami] is presently trying to resolve. The committee was created on the basis of the former commission. It includes well-known observers from UA2, UA3, UA9, UB, UC, UL, and UM.

In a short time, the committee has presented to the FRS USSR a number of proposals, many of which have already been implemented. For example:

- Rules have been confirmed for two radioamateur diplomas to be awarded to shortwavers of the world for receiving QSL cards from observers: S-100-O -- "Heard in 100 Oblasts of the USSR" ["Slyshali v 100 oblastyakh SSSR"] and S-50-S -- "Heard in 50 Countries and Territories of the World" ["Slyshali v 50 stranakh i territoriyakh mira"].
- A decision has been reached on participation by Soviet observers in continuous SWL competitions conducted by the national radio amateur organization of Belgium (UBA).

In addition, suggestions have been drawn up on changing the system of callsigns for the sake of brevity [? - dlya pridaniya yey lakonichnosti], re-examination is being considered of the rules for the cup "Best Observer of the USSR" [Polozheniye o kubke "Luchshiy nablyudatel' SSSR"], and talks are being held on cooperating with observer committees of the UBA, SRAL, and the International Shortwave League [Mezhdunarodnaya korotkovolnovaya liga], headquartered in England.

I'd like to note that no committee can activate operation by the observers of the country without local help. There are already some good examples. Belorussian A. Teteryukov, UC2-010-98, headed up the club UC-SWL which issues a bulletin with a broad range of information on competitions, expeditions, and reception of QSL cards.

...

pp 29 - 30: "CQ U."

INFO*INFO*INFO

IN THE FRS OF THE USSR. The Federation of Radio Sport of the USSR has named the ten best shortwavers [HF operators], ultrashortwavers [VHF/UHF/SHF operators], and collective station teams, based on performance in international and national competitions during 1988:

| Individual SW Stations | Individual USW Stations | Collective Stations |
|---|---|---|
| 1. G. Rumyantsev, UA1DZ | 1. A. Babich, UY5HF | 1. UZ9AYA |
| 2. K. Khachaturov, UW3AA | 2. V. Baranov, UT5DL | 2. UB3IWA |
| 3. S. Savkin, UA9YI | 3. V. Benzar', UC2AA | 3. UL8LYA |
| 4. N. Murav'yev, UAOSAU | 4. G. Grishchuk, UC2AAB | 4. UZOAXX |
| 5. Yu. Donskikh, UA9SA | 5. D. Dmitriyev, RA3AQ | 5. UP1BZZ |
| 6. V. Gordiyenko, RB3IM | 6. O. Dudnichenko, RB5GD | 6. UZOCWA |
| 7. O. Novichkov, UA9YX | 7. P. Kornilov, RW3QQ | 7. UZ4FWO |
| 8. N. Shevtsov, UL7CW | 8. V. Simonov, RW3AW | 8. UZ9WWH |
| 9. V. Kravets, UA9TS | 9. A. Tarakanov, UA3AGX | 9. UQ1GWW |
| 10. L. Velikanov, UL7OB | 10. S. Fedoseyev, RC2AA | 10. UB4MZL |

VHF*UHF*SHF, edited by S. Bubennikov

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS "POBEDA-44" ["VICTORY-44"].

The traditional international ultrashortwave radiocommunication competitions "Victory-44" ("Field and Mountain Days") ["Pobeda-44" ("Polevyye i gornyye dni")] will take place 29 - 30 June 1989. This year mixed teams from the socialist countries -- the on-site participants [ochnyye uchastniki] -- will gather in Hungary. The rules are as published in RADIO-06/1987 on page 16.

RADIOAURORA.

In 1988, according to incomplete data, radioaurora was observed on 113 days, compared to 86 in 1985, 84 in 1986, and 82 in 1987. As regards 430 MHz, aurora was observed on only 7 days in 1985, 12 in 1986, 9 in 1987, and 16 in 1988. Many "strong" radioauroras were observed in the second half of 1988.

UV1AS worked SM2/OZ1DOQ (JP75) on 144 MHz during the second half of 1988. UA3MBJ worked SP4MPB and SP5CCC on 144 MHz in the autumn of 1988; his farthest QSO was with OZ1DOQ. RW3RW worked SM5FRH in the autumn. UZ3DD turned his antenna as far as possible from north and worked OZ1DOQ, SP4MPB, and DL8HCZ; on 6 October he heard, but didn't work, PA0OOM, 2110 km away.

Please send corrections and comments, for possible inclusion in a future issue, to:

Dexter Anderson -- W4KM
150 Eleventh Street SE
Washington DC 20003-3911
USA

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